

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 AF-04 T-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 H-01 L-02 PRS-01 PM-09

CIEP-01 USIA-04 RSR-01 EA-13 /076 W
----- 038576

R 131000 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2328

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2951

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : ENRG JA

SUBJ: POSSIBLE CONSUMER COOPERATION ON ENERGY

REF (A) STATE 044081; (B) TOKYO 2281 (NOTAL);;
(CGL TOKYO 2930 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOJ WOULD OPPOSE JOINT CONSUMER BLOC
WHICH MIGHT BE REGARDED BY OPEC AS BEING DESIGNED
TO CONFRONT LATTER. MIXED REACTION EXISTS TO
JOINT PRODUCER- CONSUMER ORGANIZATION ALTHOUGH
MOST PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL VOICES SEEM TO
FAVOR IDEA " IN PRINCIPLE ." GOJ DESIRES CLOSER
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CONSULTATION WITH IS AND EC BUT ON BILATERAL BASIS.
TYPES OF COOPERATIVE APPROACH WITH US THAT GOJ
MIGHT FIND ATTRACTIVE LISTED. END SUMMARY.

1. REFERENCE MESSAGES INDICATE THAT GOJ WOULD
UNDOUBTEDLY BE VERY RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE AND
PROBABLY WOULD OPPOSE FORMATION OF CONSUMER BLOC
TO LEND SUPPORT TO OIL COMPANIES IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH OPEC. JAPANESE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES
RE MIDDLE EAST ALMOST ENTIRELY DETERMINED BY NEED
TO ASSURE SECURE SUPPLIES OIL AND GOJ UNWILLING TAKE
ANY ACTION THAT LIKELY OFFEND NEAR EAST OIL PRODUCERS.

2. JAPANESE CONTINUE TO STRESS THEIR POSITION IS
UNIQUE. THEY STATE US HAS SIZEABLE DOMESTIC ENERGY
SOURCES, EUROPE CAN LOOK TO SOME ASSISTANCE FROM
NORTH SEA FIELDS, BUT JAPAN COMPLETELY DEPENDENT
ON IMPORTS. THEY THEREFORE CANNOT AFFORD OFFEND
ANYONE. AS LATE AS MARCH 12 EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT
IN CLOSED DOOR SPEECH BEFORE PRESIDENT OF JAPANESE
OIL COMPANIES RYOHEI SUZUKI, DIRECTOR MITI'S
OIL POLICY
DIVISION, STATED THAT JAPANESE
POLICY SHOULD BE EVENLY BALANCED BETWEEN PRODUCING
COUNTRIES AND OIL COMPANIES. MITI VICE MINISTER
MOROTUMI, WHO IS UNDOUBTEDLY MOST INFLUENTIAL
GOJ OFFICIAL IN FIELD ENERGY, ALSO INFORMED AMBASSADOR
IN DINNER CONVERSATION MARCH 13 THAT JAPAN WOULD NOT
PARTICIPATE IN CONSUMER GROUP BUT PROPOSED WHAT HE
DESCRIBED AS A TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP, I. E., BILATERAL
CONTACTS BETWEEN JAPAN AND US, US AND EC, EC AND JAPAN.
THESE WOULD BE QUASI- GOVERNMENTAL IN THAT THEY
WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATION OF OIL COMPANIES.

3. QUESTION AS TO WHETHER JAPAN WOULD FAVOR
ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD BE MADE UP OF CONSUMERS
AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES MORE PROBLEMATIC. THERE
IS WIDESPREAD SENTIMENT IN JAPAN FOR SOME SUCH BODY.
HOWEVER WE RECENTLY HAVE RECEIVED WORD FROM HIGHLY RELIABLE
SOURCE THAT MOROZUMI BELIEVES AN APPROACH OF THIS
TYPE TO HAVE LITTLE VALUE ALTHOUGH HE ADMITS THAT
MITI MINISTER NAKASONE AND THE CHIEF OF MITI'S MINING
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BUREAU FAVOR THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES JAPANESE WOULD WELCOME
COOPERATIVE APPROACH WITH US ON SUBJECT OF
APPORTIONMENT IN THE EVENT OIL SUPPLIES CUT OFF.
MIGHT ALSO BE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING
WITH US IN JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
FOR NEW FORMS OF ENERGY IF AS RESULT OF INVESTMENT
THEY COULD BE ASSURED SOME PRIVILEGED POSITION.
JAPANESE HAVE ALSO MADE CLEAR TO US THEIR DESIRE
THAT US FIRMS BE GIVEN GO AHEAD BY USG TO PARTICIPATE
WITH JAPANESE FIRMS IN SIBERIAN OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO02951
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730331/aaaahxfs.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971210
Subject: POSSIBLE CONSUMER COOPERATION ON ENERGY
TAGS: ENRG, JA
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
EB
EC BRUSSELS
JIDDA
LONDON
OECD PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC

THE HAGUE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005